



10/24/03

3763

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL

(Paste Express Mail Label Here)

NUMBER

EV 31862595045

DATE OF DEPOSIT

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

John F. Higgins
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ROBERT C. SIMPSON

Serial No.: 09/989,342

Filed: November 20, 2001

For: An Epidural Catheter System To Contain
And Control An Epidural Catheter,
Maintain Epidural Catheter Sterility And
Prevent Epidural Catheter Contamination

Group Art Unit: 3763

Examiner: SERKE, Catherine

Atty. Dkt. No.: 13421.0002.NPUS00

Confirmation No.: 5345

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
OCT 28 2003
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The following is in response to the Office Action dated Sept. 24, 2003, for which the one-month period of reply is Oct. 24, 2003. No extension fee is believed due. However, the undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application. In addition, the undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-02508/13421.0002.NPUS00.

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- I. **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.
- II. **Remarks In Response to the Office Action** begin on page 6 of this paper.